

2 MISSION, FUNCTIONS AND CAPABILITIES		Page 1 of 2
Department of Forensic Science QUALITY MANUAL		Amendment Designator: B
		Effective Date: 1-February-2006
2 MISSION, FUNCTIONS AND CAPABILITIES		
2.1 Mission		
2.1.1	The Department is established under § 9.1-1100 of the Code of Virginia. (All references below are to the Code of Virginia.)	
2.1.2	The Department’s mission is the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide forensic laboratory services upon request of any law enforcement agency, Commonwealth's Attorney, medical examiner, fire department, or any state agency in any criminal matter in the Commonwealth (§ 9.1-1101).• Establish and maintain a DNA data bank of convicted felons (§ 19.2-310.2) and persons arrested for any violent felony or for certain burglaries (§ 19.2-310.2:1).	
2.2 History		
2.2.1	In 1970, a survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police identified a need for a statewide forensic laboratory system in Virginia. Two years later, an act of the General Assembly created the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS), which included a Bureau of Forensic Science. The Bureau absorbed the Commonwealth's existing state drug and toxicology laboratories and several local forensic laboratories.	
2.2.2	In 1990, the Bureau, because of its rapid expansion in the latter part of the 1980s, was elevated to Division status under the Department of General Services (DGS).	
2.2.3	In 1996, the Division was transferred from DGS to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).	
2.2.4	In 2005, the Division was further elevated to Department status under the Governor’s Secretary of Public Safety. The Department continues to provide comprehensive forensic laboratory services to over 400 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth, while remaining independent of any of them.	
2.3 Mandated Functions		
	The Department of Forensic Science performs the following mandated functions:	
2.3.1	Operate the Forensic Science Academy to provide advanced training to law enforcement personnel in the recognition, collection and preservation of evidence during the investigation of crimes (§ 9.1-1103).	
2.3.2	Maintain, repair and certify breath test instruments used by law enforcement personnel throughout the Commonwealth. Train and license operators to perform breath testing of persons suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol (§§ 18.2-268.9, 29.1-738.2 and 46.2-341.26:9).	
2.3.3	Perform analyses on blood samples submitted in connection with investigations of suspected cases of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs (§§ 18.2-268.6, 18.2-268.7, 29.1-738.2, 46.2-341.26:6 and 46.2-341.26:7).	
2.3.4	Maintain a data bank of the DNA profiles of convicted felons (§§ 19.2-310.2 et seq.), juveniles convicted of a felony or adjudicated delinquent of an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult provided the juvenile was 14 years of age or older at the time of the commission of the offense (§ 16.1-299.1), and persons arrested for any violent felony or for certain burglaries (§§ 19.2-310.2:1 et seq).	
2.3.5	Test and approve field test kits for use by law enforcement officers to identify controlled substances and marijuana. (§ 19.2-188.1).	

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<div> <p>2.3.6 Store, preserve and retain human biological evidence, as ordered by the court, in death penalty cases and when requested by the defense in felony cases (§ 19.2-270.4:1). Pursuant to court order, perform post conviction DNA analysis (§ 19.2-327.1).</p> <p>2.3.7 Perform scientific investigations ordered by the court at the request of the defense (§ 9.1-1104).</p> </div> <div> 2.4 Capabilities </div> <div> <p>The Department provides the following:</p> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of controlled substances • Examination of human biological evidence (DNA analysis) • Examination of firearms and toolmarks • Examination of latent prints and impressions • Examination of questioned documents • Examination of trace evidence including explosives, fabric separations, fire debris, glass, gunshot residue (GSR), hairs, fibers, paint, and general chemical analysis. • Toxicology and alcoholic beverage analysis • Analysis of blood stain patterns • Examination of digital evidence (audio/video/images) • Training through the Forensic Science Academy • Audio/video enhancement • Breath test instrument maintenance and certification, and operator training and licensing. </div> <div> <p>► End</p> </div>	